



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LUPUS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Lupus is a disabling and sometimes fatal autoimmune disease that affects the skin, joints, and one or more internal organs; and
- WHEREAS: The illness can affect any part of the body including the heart, kidneys, and brain. Lupus also causes an imbalance in the immune system by causing the body to attack its own healthy cells; and
- WHEREAS: Lupus is unpredictable and misunderstood, yet effects thousands of Americans every day. Approximately 55,000 Georgians are affected by lupus; and
- WHEREAS: The disease is widespread, but affects females at a higher rate than males; and
- WHEREAS: Lupus may cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure. The disease is difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses and little is understood about its causes; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the prevalence of lupus, the disease remains one of the least recognizable and most misunderstood conditions. More than half of those eventually diagnosed with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a proper diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS: For many people with lupus, effective treatment can minimize symptoms, reduce inflammation, and help to maintain normal body functions; and
- WHEREAS: On Lupus Awareness Day, organizations including the Lupus Matters Corporation work to generate awareness for the importance of supporting the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus. The State of Georgia joins the Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness and other agencies and organizations in recognizing those that promote lupus research and education on the disease; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2018, as LUPUS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF